

REMARKS

1. Summary of the Office Action

The Examiner has withdrawn objections to the specification, has withdrawn objections to the drawings, and has withdrawn rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 101, 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The Examiner has rejected claims 1-10, 12, and 14-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. The Examiner indicated that claims 1-12 and 14-24 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

2. Amendments and Pending Claims

Applicants have amended claims 1, 5, 14, and 18, and have cancelled claims 4, 11, 13, 17, and 24. Now pending in this application are claims 1-3, 5-10, 12, 14-16, and 18-23, of which claims 1 and 14 are independent.

3. Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd Paragraph

In rejecting claims 1-10, 12, and 14-23, under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, the Examiner recommended incorporating a limitation of claims 11 and 24 into independent claims 1 and 14. The Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate limitations from claims 4 and 11, and have amended claim 14 to incorporate limitations from claims 17 and 24. The Applicants submit that claims 1 and 14 particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter of the invention, and Applicant further submit that claims 1 and 14 are in a condition for allowance. Moreover, since claims 2-10, 12, and 15-23, are dependent on either claim 1 or claim 14, and since claims 1 and 14 particularly

point out and distinctly claim subject matter of the invention, Applicants submit that claims 2-10, 12, and 15-23 are allowable since claims 2-10, 12, and 15-23 also particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter of the invention

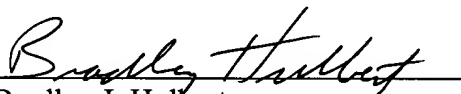
4. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3, 5-10, 12, 14-16, and 18-23 are now in a condition for allowance, and respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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